

ANNUAL REPORT

Upon the

HEALTH,
AND
SANITARY
CONDITION

Of the

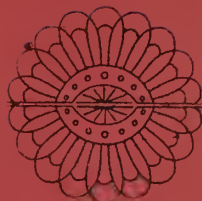
AMBLE

URBAN



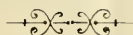
DISTRICT,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st, 1907.



J. Winter, Printer, Amble.

The Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1907.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Amble
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

The Physical conditions in 1907 were the most unfavourable we have experienced for some years. The first quarter of the year was abnormally fine, but this was succeeded throughout the following nine months by days of endless rain, and consequently little sunshine. Certain forms of sickness were on this account more prevalent especially amongst children who suffered much from confinement.

Birth Rate.

The number of births registered during the year was 145 of which 84 were males and 61 females. This number was a decrease of 10 on that of the previous year. The birthrate averages therefore (estimating the population at 6,000) 24·1 per 1,000, that of the preceding year being 25·8 per 1,000, and of the previous 10 years 32·2 per 1,000.

Mortality.

The number of Deaths from all causes and at all ages was 74, and these were distributed over the year as follows :—

January - 4	May - - 10	September - 4
February 9	June - - 8	October-- - 5
March - 5	July - - 3	November - 2
April - - 11	August - 6	December - 7

Of this number 46 were males and 28 females. The deathrate over the whole year was 12·3 per 1,000, as compared with 11·6 per 1,000 for 1906, and 13·5 per 1,000 the average of the 10 years 1897—1906. From this total may be legitimately deducted 4 deaths from accidents, so that the corrected deathrate due to disease is 11·6 per 1,000.

Analysis of Death Rate.

Under one year of age there were 18 deaths; between 1 year and 5 years, 10; between 5 and 15, 3; 15 and 25, 6; 25 and 65, 22; above 65, 15. Particulars of these are found on Table IV., and call for no comment.

Infantile Mortality.

Of the 18 infant deaths under 1 year, 4 occurred within one month of birth, 8 between 1 and 6 months, and 6 between 6 and 12 months. Of these 2 succumbed to common infectious diseases (Measles); 3 to Diarrhœal diseases; 8 to Wasting diseases; 1 to Tuberculosis; 3 to Respiratory troubles, and 1 to Meningitis.

For another year—the fifth in succession—we have been spared from the Epidemic Diarrhœa so common and so fatal in infant life. I am convinced that members of the community have themselves to thank for this, as in my house to house visitation I have found general improvement in the hygienic conditions surrounding the infant. Another factor in this I should not fail to recognise, is the healthy influence and teaching of our townships' nurse. On many occasions I have called upon her to take in hand the feeding of infants debilitated from wrong feeding with the result that lives have been spared. I would, however, continue to urge upon all, the greatest cleanliness in the home—however poor it be—this costs nothing and means much to mother and to child.

The infantile death rate per 1,000 births registered is 117·2, as compared with 116·1 for 1906, and 133·4 the previous 10 years average.

Causes of Death.

A full analysis of causes of Death at all ages will be found in Table IV. The deaths due to Zymotic disease numbered 7, Diphtheria claiming 4, Measles 2, and Whooping Cough 1. Considering the outbreak of Measles in the earlier months of the year the number of deaths from that cause is very small. The deaths from Phthisis numbered 6, being an increase of 1 on the previous year, and gives an average of 1 per 1,000. From other Tubercular diseases 7 deaths resulted, whilst nature claimed its toll in 11 deaths from the decay of old age.

Infectious Disease.

During the year 25 cases of Infectious disease were notified as follows:—

Diphtheria 21. Erysipelas 4.

An outbreak of Measles in February and March so severely affected the attendance at the Public and Roman Catholic Schools, that after consultation with their respective Managers I advised the Council to recommend their closure until after the Easter holidays, which recommendation was carried out.

Diphtheria.—As recorded above 21 cases were notified and they occurred as follows:—

January -	2	August -	2	October -	5
May - -	2	September	4	November	4
				December -	2

In some cases the origin of infection could be definitely traced, in others it was more obscure but in each instance the most minute sanitary investigation was made. This outbreak was undoubtedly part and parcel of some 800 cases occurring in the County during the 12 months of 1907, as I find on reference to the Monthly Health Reports that very few districts were unaffected. In the cases referred to, 13 were divided amongst 6 houses, so that 14 houses were actually affected. To further hinder the spread of the disease, I recommended to the Council in October in a Special Report on Diphtheria, that they should make the following recommendations to the School Managers:

- 1.—That all School-floors and desks be disinfected with Cyllin each week.
- 2.—That at those Schools where slates were used paper be substituted.
- 3.—That no child convalescent from Diphtheria should be allowed to return to school without a certificate from the Medical Officer of Health based on a bacteriological examination.

These I am glad to say were adopted in the majority of cases. The Council also sanctioned that free anti-diphtheria serum should be provided for impecunious cases certified by myself. In the majority of cases recorded above the anti-toxin was used, and it is satisfactory to note that 4 deaths only occurred a little over 19 per cent. The use of anti-toxin having reduced the death rate in Diphtheria from 60—70 per cent. to 15—20 per cent., it is to be devoutly hoped that ere long the central authority will consider the advisability of its free distribution.

All houses in which Diphtheria has occurred have been disinfected with portable Formaline lamps.

Milk Supply.

A supply equal to the demand of milk of superior quality has always been obtainable. Samples have been submitted to examination from time to time, and all have answered the tests of purity and density.

Dairies, Cow-Sheds and Milk-Shops.

These have been regularly inspected by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself, and I have invariably found them in accordance with the bye-laws. Frequent whitewashing and cleansing are being constantly urged upon the owners.

Slaughter Houses.

These have been regularly inspected and found in a satisfactory sanitary condition. The position in the town of some of them is not very favourable, and I again express the hope that on a date not far distant, the Council will determine upon a Public Slaughter-house. The offal from the present buildings is carefully and quickly disposed of.

Bake Houses and Mineral Water Manufactories.

These have been kept clean and tidy, and healthful products have been offered for sale.

Lodging Houses.

These have been inspected from time to time and found satisfactory.

Water Supply.

An abundant supply of spring water unsurpassed in purity still continues to exist, and to provide against any deficiency in the hot months of the year, a scheme is before the Council for the construction of a further storage reservoir.

Scavenging.

This is still being carried out successfully by the Councils own servants. One cannot help feeling, however, that removal of privy and midden refuse should be at shorter intervals, and that the work should be done during the hours of night. It is a most common occurrence for these receptacles to be emptied at the moment when the butcher or milkman is disposing of his goods, and thus a great possibility of contamination is presented.

Sewers and Drains.

These have had the constant attention of the Inspector of Nuisances and several doubtful drains have been relaid under his supervision. The condition referred to in my last report relative to Middleton Street, has now had the attention of the Council, and it is to be hoped that the new arrangement of sewerage there will be effective.

In October I represented to the Council that the ventilation arrangements in regard to the sewers generally were both inefficient and insufficient. Very few ventilating shafts exist and some which do are ineffective because broken or choked. I recommended that shafts be placed at every blind end, and that at these ends adequate means for flushing be made. When the sewers are tide-locked sewer gas is pressed backwards through the traps and finds its way into the public thoroughfares in spite of pieces of wood inserted beneath the grids.

Nuisances.

During the year I have drawn the attention of the Council to many existing nuisances. These have consisted of :

- 1.—Damp and insanitary properties.
- 2.—Faulty structure and dilapidated condition of privy-middens.
- 3.—Emptying of contents of privy-middens upon unpaved back streets.
- 4.—Open horse manure middens in public thoroughfares.

In a few cases my recommendations have been attended to, but, in other cases no action has been taken. The condition of Albert House, which has been before the Council for over two years is a disgrace, and the choked drain reported to the Council in January 1907, still remains in *statu quo*. This is within a few feet from the door of the house.

There still remain many insanitary privy-middens in the town, although a good many have been abolished during the year. Some need rebuilding, if they are to remain, whilst others are so infrequently emptied as to be almost unusable at times.

Some insanitary stable-middens abutting on to the public street, and reported by me three years ago, still exist unaltered. I trust the Council will give their earnest attention to these matters so that our town may be in as favourable a sanitary condition as possible.

Houses.

A considerable number of new houses have been built during the year. House accommodation however, is still sadly needed, and it is pleasing to see the desire for better equipped houses. It is time that all our one-roomed houses without through ventilation were replaced by more sanitary structures.

Isolation Hospital.

There has arisen no need to re-open this during the past year, but it is ready to be opened on comparatively short notice.

Port Sanitation.

The sanitary condition of the Harbour has been satisfactory. No sickness has been reported on vessels entering the harbour. Vessels from foreign are occasionally inspected.

Schools.

The building of the New Council School is being pressed on with, and will be an immense boon to the health of the town when completed. The older schools now existing are deficient in sanitary standard. The method of weekly disinfection advised by the Council should materially improve the health of the children.

Factories and Workshops.

There are on the register 17 Factories and 32 Workshops. These have been regularly inspected by H.M. Inspector of Factories and myself. No candidates Examined under the Act have been disqualified.

Summary.

Under the following headings, gentlemen, I have endeavoured to guide you to those places, where as Sanitary rulers your authority can command much to be done to improve the condition of our town. It is a healthy town as its vital statistics show from year to year, and to keep it as such and to improve it, to make it attractive to our own townspeople and the stranger alike must be our one object. To acquire this a policy of ready and definite action is indispensable, and I would ask your earnest and early attention to those matters I have indicated to you during the past 12 months, and shall present to you in the months to come. I trust you will acquit me of everything but a desire to do my best for the township which is so deserving of all our best interests. For the kindly manner in which you have received my suggestions I desire to tender my best thanks.

I wish also to place on record in this report the valuable assistance I have received from our own Surveyor, and also from the County Medical Officer. Both these gentlemen have served us well.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

H. M. STUMBLES, M.B.

(Medical Officer of Health).

TABLE I.

AMBLE DISTRICT. *For Whole District.*

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each Year	BIRTHS		DEATHS under One Year of Age		DEATHS at all ages. Total	
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births register'd	Number	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1897	4,500	143	31·7	25	174·8	65	14·4
1898	4,500	156	34·6	23	147·4	66	14·6
1899	4,500	138	30·6	33	239·0	69	15·3
1900	4,500	160	35·5	18	112·5	52	11·4
1901	4,426	158	35·1	25	158·2	67	14·8
1902	4,650	170	36·5	15	88·2	55	11·8
1903	5,000	173	34·6	16	92·4	71	14·2
1904	5,000	142	28·4	14	98·6	80	16·0
1905	5,000	149	29·8	16	107·4	56	11·2
1906	6,000	155	25·8	18	116·1	70	11·6
Averages for years 1897-1906	4,807·6	154·4	32·2	20·3	133·4	65·1	13·5
1907	6,000	145	24·1	18	117·2	74	12·3

*Rates in Columns 4 and 8 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

NOTE. The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division.

Total population at all ages, 4,426

Number of inhabitants houses 950

Average number of persons per house, 4·7

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 1,218.

} At Census of 1901.

TABLE II.

a

AMBLE DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics in 1907 and Previous Years.

NAME OF LOCALITY.		AMBLE.		
YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
1897	4,500	163	65	25
1898	4,500	156	66	23
1899	4,500	138	69	33
1900	4,500	160	52	18
1901	4,426	158	67	25
1902	4,650	170	55	15
1903	5,000	173	71	16
1904	5,000	142	80	14
1905	5,000	149	56	16
1906	6,000	155	70	18
Averages of years 1897 to 1906 }	4,807·6	154·4	65·1	20·3
1907	6,000	145	74	13

TABLE III.

AMBLE DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1907.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.		
	At ages—Years.						1	2	3
	At all ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65 yrs			
Diphtheria	21		8	13					
Membranous Croup									
Erysipelas	4				1	3			
Scarlet Fever									
Puerperal Fever									
Totals	25		8	13	1	3			

TABLE IV.

AMBLE DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages, at Death during the Year 1907.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT UNJOINED AGES.					
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65
Measles	2	2				65 and upwards
Whooping Cough	1		1			
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	4		3	1		
Croup	1		1			
Diarrhoea	1	1				
Enteritis	1	1				
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	6				3	3
Other Tubercular Diseases	7	1	3	2	1	
Cancer (malignant disease)	1					1
Bronchitis	2	1				1
Pneumonia	4	2	1			1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	2					2
Alcoholism (Cirrhosis of Liver)	1					1
Premature Birth	2					
Heart Disease	6	2				
Accidents	4					1
Suicides	1					
Senile Decay	11					11
All other causes	17	8	1		2	2
Totals	74	18	10	3	6	22
						15

TABLE V.

AMBLE DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1907.

DEATHS FROM STATED CASES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	10-11 months.	11-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
All Causes.		1	1	2	4	3	2	1		2	1	2		2	1		12
Measles -												1					1
Diarrhoea, all forms -														2			2
Enteritis -				1	1		1										2
Premature Birth -		1	1		2										1		2
Congenital defects -																	1
Atrophy, Debility -																	1
Marasmus -						2	1	1		1		1					5
Peritonitis -										1		1					2
Meningitis -										1							1
Bronchitis -				1	1						1						2
Pneumonia -																	1
		1	1	2	4	3	2	1		2	1	2		2	1		12

District of Amble.

Births in the Year, - 145.

Deaths from all Causes at all ages, - 74.

Population (estimated to middle of 1907), - 6,000.

Deaths in the year, of Infants, - 18.